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LETTER DATED 15 JUNE 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the unified command established pursuant to Security Council resolution 84 (1950) of 7 July 1950, I have the honour to submit a special report of the United Nations Command. The enclosed special report to the United Nations Security Council describes the 22 May 1992 violation of the Military Armistice by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which resulted in the death of three armed infiltrators of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the wounding of two soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Korea. It also addresses the Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteers boycott of the 460th Military Armistice Commission meeting convened on 29 May 1992 to discuss the 22 May violation of the Military Armistice.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed special report be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander F. WATSON
Acting Representative

Annex

Special report of the United Nations Command to the United Nations Security Council on a 22 May 1992 violation of the Military Armistice and Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteer boycott of the 460th Military Armistice Committee meeting

1. The United Nations Command (UNC) was created in response to United Nations Security Council resolution 84 (1950) of 7 July 1950. In that resolution, the Security Council recommended the establishment of a unified command, under the United States of America, in order to repel North Korean aggression against the Repubic of Korea and to restore peace and security. It also requested that UNC provide the Security Council with reports, as appropriate, on the course of action taken under the unified command.

2. Late in the evening of 21 May 1992, UNC security police forces detected a number of armed personnel departing from a Korean People's Army guard post approximately 900 metres north-west of military demarcation line (MDL) marker 0606 (appendix I). These personnel were monitored as they approached the MDL and three armed personnel were observed crossing the line. This infiltration was a serious violation of paragraph 7 of the Armistice Agreement. The following morning, 22 May 1992, these heavily armed infiltrators from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea encountered a UNC security police patrol on the south side of the MDL and a firefight ensued. During the course of this firefight, two infiltrators from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea died and a UNC security policeman was wounded. Later, on the afternoon of 22 May 1992, the third infiltrator from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was killed in a second firefight with UNC security personnel. During the second engagement, a second UNC security policeman was wounded.

3. A UNC Military Armistice Committee investigation team was dispatched to the incident site and arrived at the conclusion of the second firefight. The investigation resulted in the conclusion that the Korean People's Army violated paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 12 of the Armistice Agreement. The three infiltrators were dressed in poor imitations of Republic of Korea Army uniforms and were armed with World War II and Viet Nam conflict vintage United States and Canadian weapons. They carried three anti-personnel hand grenades, two of which bore manufacturer markings traced to ordnance and machine factories of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The evidence leads to a clear conclusion that the infiltration attempt was prepared and intentional (appendix II).

4. The serious nature of these violations led the UNC to call for the 460th plenary session of the Military Armistice Commission. The Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteers were requested on seven different occasions to attend the meeting. The Korean People's Army side did not request an alternate date and time, which according to established Military Armistice Commission protocols indicates an acceptance of the proposed date and time. The Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteer side boycotted the 29 May 1992 session (appendix III).

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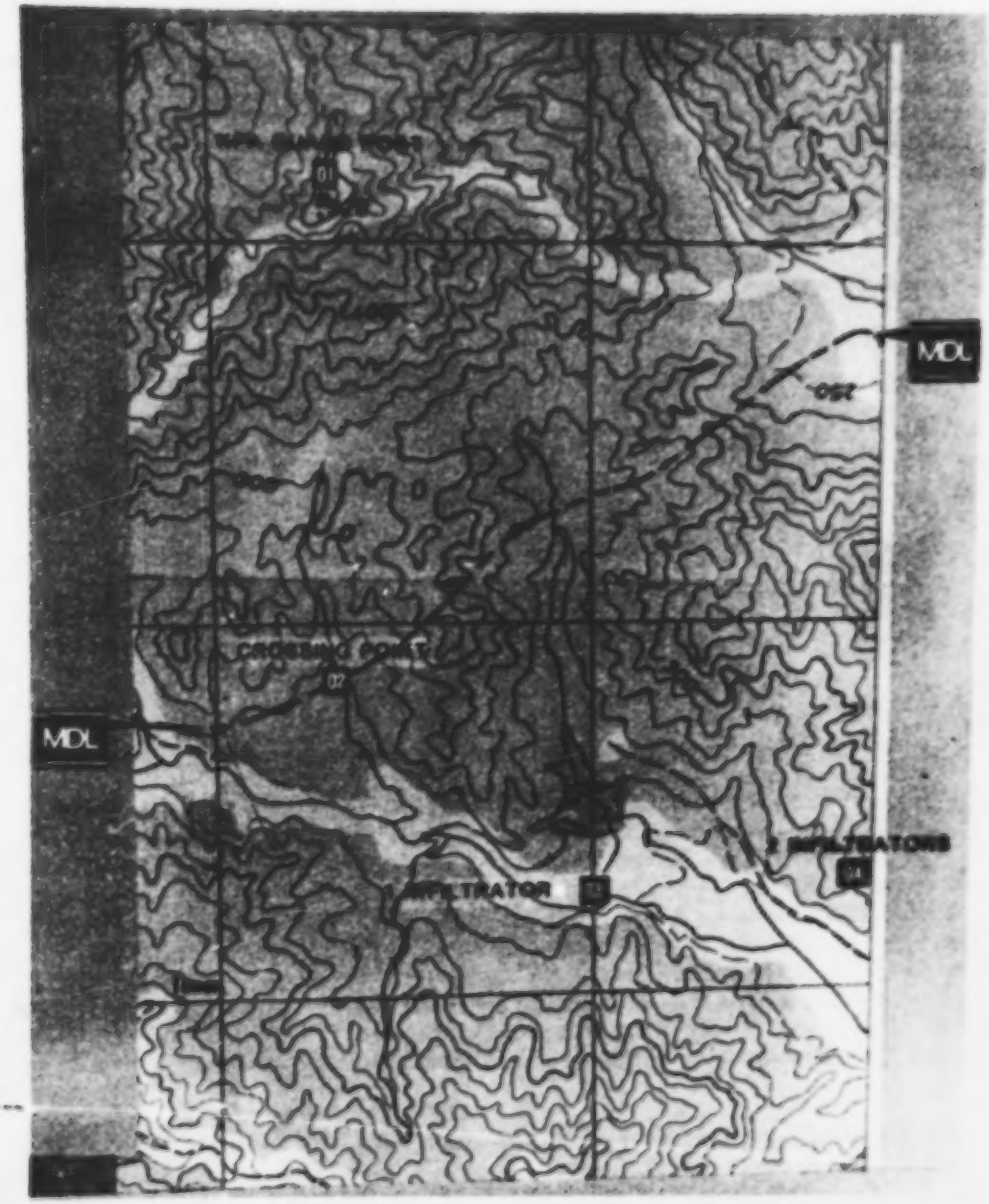
5. In order for the Armistice to be maintained, a reasonable attempt to resolve serious incidents must be made. This principle is the heart of paragraph 25 of the Armistice Agreement. In the nearly 40-year history of the Military Armistice Commission, tensions have often been reduced as a result of direct discussions between representatives of the military forces of both sides. Refusal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea side to address this major incident in the forum of the Military Armistice Committee is a significant cause for concern about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's commitment to continued implementation and maintenance of the Armistice.

6. The intention of UNC is to prevent the recurrence of such tragic and provocative incidents. The objective, as always, is to strive for a strong, effective Armistice. As a humanitarian gesture, UNC has extended an offer and remains ready to return, with dignity, the remains of the infiltrators from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Appendix I



Appendix II

Information concerning a crossing of the military demarcation line on 21-22 May 1992

1. Late in the evening of 21 May 1992, UNC demilitarized zone (DMZ) civil police observed a number of armed personnel departing from a Korean People's guard post approximately 900 metres north-west of military demarcation line (MDL) marker 0606. Three of these armed individuals crossed the MDL into the southern portion of the DMZ. The crossing violated paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the Armistice Agreement.

2. The following morning, 22 May 1992, these same armed personnel encountered UNC civil police. In the resulting action, two of the infiltrators were killed and one UNC civil policeman was injured. Later the same day, the third infiltrator was killed in firefight approximately 400 metres to the south of the first engagement. During this second engagement, a second UNC civil policeman was injured.

3. The infiltrators were dressed in poor imitations of Republic of Korea Army uniforms; two were wearing the rank of sergeant. They carried equipment and supplies similar in type and manufacture to items carried by armed infiltration teams from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea encountered in the past (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Equipment and supplies found with the infiltrators

3 M-16 rifles, Viet Nam conflict vintage, no manufacture marking or serial number

3 M-16 magazines, fully loaded

12 boxes, 5.56 ball ammunition

3 cloth bags containing loose 5.56 ball ammunition

2 .45-calibre pistols, World War II vintage: serial numbers 1138014 M-1191 A1 US Army, 2406033 M-1191 A1 US Army, marked "US Property"

2 .45-calibre magazines, fully loaded

1 9 mm Browning FN pistol, World War II vintage, marked "Inglis Canada"

3 F1 anti-personnel hand grenades: marking on 1 grenade, "1284-14-80", which correlates to Sakju Ordnance Factory, Pyongsan, Pukdo Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

3 grenade detonators: 2 detonators with manufacture marking "15-75-53", which correlates to Songchon Machine Factory, Songchon-gun, South Pyongan Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

3 4-inch blade sheath knives

3 penknives

3 binoculars

2 video cameras: 1 destroyed; 1 marked "Victor Video Movie", model BR-S20; with Victor Battery Pack model BN-V6G, marked "Made in Japan"

1 35 mm camera, serial number 2334857, marked "Asahi Pentax"

2 telephoto lens packs

3 satchel/packs, 1 marked "DVKD"

Miscellaneous rations

Appendix III

Chronological listing of messages between the United Nations Command and the Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteers concerning the 460th Military Armistice Commission meeting

1. Date: 26 May 1992
Time: 1538 hours
Sender: Secretary UNCMAC

Text: Our side proposes the 460th MAC meeting be held 1100 hours on 29 May 1992 in the MAC Conference Room.

Joint Duty Office (JDO) comments: KPA/CPV refused receipt of message in the name of the Secretary MAC, KPA/CPV, and would not acknowledge time of transmission, but stated they would be able to receive other message transmissions other than this particular reference.

2. Date: 27 May 1992
Time: 1800 hours
Sender: Secretary UNCMAC

Text: Our side is waiting for your side's response to our proposal for the 460th MAC meeting at 1100 hours on 29 May 1992.

JDO comments: Following transmission of message in English, KPA/CPV JDO stated he was instructed not to receive any message relating to a MAC meeting.

3. Date: 28 May 1992
Time: 1130 hours
Sender: Secretary UNCMAC

Text: Your side has, on many occasions in the past, insisted "the Armistice Agreement requires that when one of the sides calls a meeting, the other side should unconditionally, repeat, unconditionally comply with it". Our side called the 460th MAC meeting to be convened at 1100 hours, 29 May 1992. Your side has yet to accept the meeting or counterpropose for another date in accordance with paragraph 31 of the Armistice Agreement.

JDO comments: When KPA/CPV JDO was asked to repeat the message for clarity, he stated "I will not repeat the message." The KPA/CPV JDO would not accept a Korean translation of the message and explained that their "position is firm". He further stated there can be no MAC meeting because the KPA does not accept the UNC Senior Member, that MAC meeting proposals by UNC were "making a mockery" of the KPA side, and that further MAC meeting proposal messages by UNC will be refused by the order of Col. Kim Ryon Ki, KPA Secretary.

4. Date: 29 May 1992
Time: 1010 hours
Sender: Secretary UNCMAC

Text: I was instructed by my superiors to inform your side that the UN component of MAC is coming to the 460th MAC meeting as proposed by our side and to urge your side's component to attend the meeting.

5. Date: 29 May 1992
Time: 1027 hours
Sender: Secretary KPA/CPV

Text: Your side will get an answer later relating to your message calling for the 460th MAC meeting.

6. Date: 29 May 1992
Time: 1056 hours
Sender: Secretary KPA/CPV

Text: I remind you of the facts that our side has informed your side that our side is examining your side's proposal.

7. Date: 29 May 1992
Time: 1100 hours
Sender: Secretary UNCMAC

Text: Since you have not responded to our call for the meeting, the MAC staff are going to the conference room to prepare for the meeting.

8. Date: 29 May 1992
Time: 1105 hours
Sender: Secretary KPA/CPV

Text: Our side has already informed your side that we are reviewing your proposal.

9. Date: 29 May 1992
Time: 1308 hours
Sender: Secretary KPA/CPV

Text: Both sides have not yet agreed on having a meeting and on the meeting date while our side answered that it is considering your proposal.